

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has delineated the following inventions as being patentably distinct:

Group I: Claims 1-8 and 10, drawn to a process for preparing an isocyanate compound; and

Group II: Claim 9, drawn to a Production Plant.

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 10, 2008, applicants elect without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-8 and 10 drawn to a process for preparing an isocyanate.

Further, applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected subject matter, if so desired, and be accorded the benefit of the filing date of the parent application. Divisional applications filed thereafter should not be subject to a double-patenting ground of rejection, 35 U.S.C. § 121, *In re Joyce* (Comr. Pat. 1957) 115 USPQ 412.

Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits and an early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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